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COUNTRY Cuba

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SUBJECT Labor Strife within the CTC
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1. A Cuban official whose sympathies are with the Comite Obrero Nacional Independiente (CONI) declares that Angel Cofino, Secretary General of the anti-Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) and leader of the CONI, will not separate from the anti-Communist CTC even though Vicente hubiera, Independent Labor leader, made a press announcement to that effect on 28 October 1948. Cofino will remain as Secretary General of the CTC until the Sixth Labor Congress scheduled for the spring of 1949.

25X1A6a

2. Voting in the Sixth Congress is by syndicate. [REDACTED] Comment. Any syndicate which has less than 25 members is not entitled to a delegate. Syndicates with membership between 25 and 500 have one delegate; between 500 and 1,000, two delegates; and an additional delegate for each 500 syndicate members in excess of the first 1,000.) CONI can control the votes of many of the large syndicates such as the electric, telephone, banking and commercial employees. CON, on the other hand, controls a majority of the small syndicates, but since each of these has a single delegate, it would not have much difficulty in getting a majority vote in the next congress. However, CON would be faced with opposition from the larger more powerful syndicates whose positions obviously would have great weight in the Congress.

3. Decree 2605, which the press proposed as an absolute block to Cofino's desire to create a third CTC, would not have such an effect. This decree would prevent Cofino from setting up an organization known as the CTC, which name is reserved for one government approved organization, but it would not prevent Cofino from setting up a block of syndicates under some other name in the absence of any pretension on Cofino's part that his creation was the CTC.

25X1A6a

- 6a Comment. Although a newer group is known as the legal CTC, and Lazaro Pena's Communist organization is also called the CTC, this condition will exist only until the Supreme Court actually makes a decision as to which group is the proper entity, whereupon the other organization will no longer be able to use that designation.)

4. The same official, whose sympathies are with COMI, denies any close connection between the Accion Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG) and COMI and states that ARG is definitely attempting to control the labor situation independent of either CGN or COMI. ARG controls the electrical-railway syndicate and many of the sugar syndicates, but it would be incorrect to state that they control the telephone syndicate or Omnibus Aliados.

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-2-

5. It has been reported that CON does not control CTC finances, although Suri Castillo, a CON member, is Financial Secretary of the CTC. This condition existed because CONI requested local syndicates not to send their funds to Castillo. It has since been determined that Castillo's assistant, Manuel Zorilla, Assistant Financial Secretary, who also carries the title of Treasurer of the CTC, is a member of CONI. It is through Zorilla, who is Secretary of the telephone syndicate, that CONI controls CTC funds.

- D-3 6. Manuel Berenguer, Chief of the Vigilancia Secreta of the Sindicato de Motoristas y Conductores of the Habana Electric Company, presently is collecting about \$1,000 each day from those syndicate members who sympathize with the ARG, which money he turns over to ARG Chief, Gonzalez Cartas.

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